SOUTH CENTRE

A policy research institution exclusively serving developing countries

The Investment Case



As **the only intergovernmental policy research institution exclusively serving developing countries**, the Centre contributes to the design of development-centered national policies and enables countries of the South to transform their collective potential into an effective force to shape and enforce multilateral rules that are just, equitable and address the special needs and realities of the countries of the Global South.

Our unique position as an intergovernmental think tank, having the convening power and accountable to Member States, funded primarily by the South, with expertise accumulated through **three decades of work**, provides our analyses a level of reliability that other institutions cannot match.

We deliver impact across three complementary levels, providing comprehensive support to achieve development objectives: **multilateral level** (notably in Geneva where the Centre is located), **regional level** (strengthening regional cooperation) and **national level** (direct country support). While promoting the unity of the Global South, we acknowledge however the diversity in national development strategies and contexts.

Crucially, we deliver impact at the moment it matters the most: when policies are designed and multilateral rules are being written, not after they're already locked in.

OUR CONSTITUENCY

The South Centre supports all developing countries, with particular attention to the needs and requirements of its **54 Member States** from Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

- Algeria
- Angola
- Argentina
- Barbados
- Benin
- Bolivia (Plurinational State of)
- Brazil
- Burundi
- Cabo Verde
- Cambodia
- China
- Colombia
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Cuba
- Dominican Republic
- Democratic People's Republic of Korea
- Egypt
- Gabon
- Ghana
- Guyana
- Honduras
- India
- Indonesia
- Iran (Islamic Republic of)
- Iraq
- Jamaica
- Jordan
- Liberia
- Malawi
- Malaysia
- Mali
- Mauritius
- Micronesia (Federated States of)
- Morocco
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Nicaragua
- Nigeria
- Pakistan
- Panama
- Philippines
- Seychelles
- Sierra Leone
- South Africa
- Sri Lanka
- State of Libya
- State of Palestine
- Sudan
- Suriname
- Uganda
- United Republic of Tanzania
- Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
- Vietnam
- Zimbabwe

OUR WORK PROGRAM (2026-28)

The South Centre's Work Program, as approved by the Board for 2026-2028, encompasses **14 interconnected thematic work areas**:



WHAT ARE THE RETURNS ON INVESTMENT IN THE SOUTH CENTRE

Our investment case is compelling: modest support unlocks enormous value. Here are some examples:

Policy Space Preservation:

When Southern countries successfully defend special and differential treatment, resist intellectual property rules that go beyond internationally agreed minimum standards, or prevent harmful investment treaty obligations, they preserve regulatory autonomy worth billions of US dollars in potential future economic benefits and foregone regulatory costs.

Revenue Protection:

Effective participation in international tax negotiations can secure fair allocation of taxing rights worth hundreds of billions of US dollars collectively to developing countries, compared to a modest investment in the Centre's technical support.

Securing Technology Access:

Securing flexibilities in global intellectual property rules, technology transfer commitments, or benefit-sharing arrangements enables access to technologies worth billions of US dollars, from essential medicines to climate technologies to digital innovations.

Capacity that Endures:

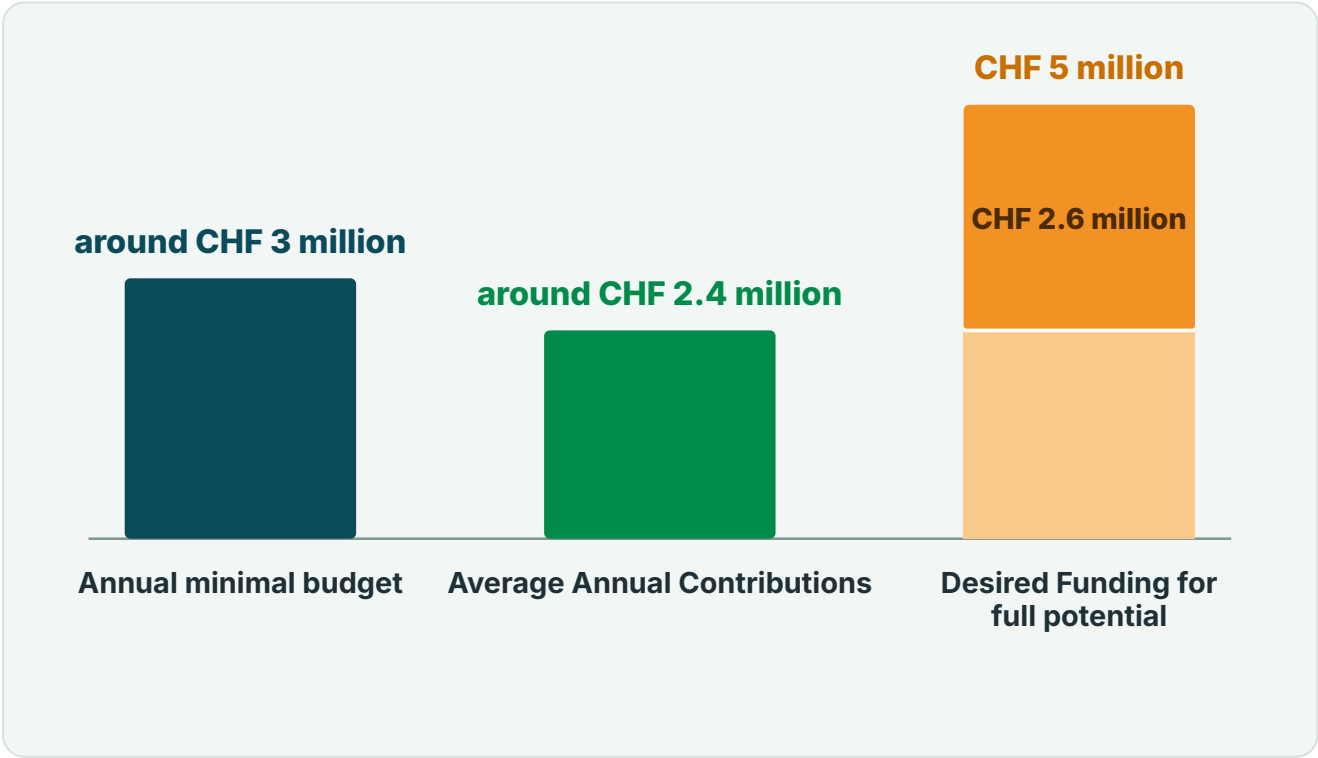
Training and capacity building create lasting institutional knowledge that serves countries across multiple negotiations and policy processes over many years.

Our Annual Funding Needs (2026-2028)

A lean expert team without the overhead of a large bureaucracy provides rapid responses, flexibility to engage across issues as they evolve, and a direct relationship between funding and impact.

The Centre relies on its members and donors' contributions, which have allowed it to sustain over the years. However, the Centre is currently not being able to meet its annual minimal budget of around **CHF 3 million**, with recovery of only around **CHF 2.4 million** annually.

The voluntary contributions, as assessed by the Council of Representatives, from all the Members of the Centre remain indispensable to financing its activities, achieving a balanced budget and effectively performing its mandate. Moreover, to reach its full potential through the consolidation and expansion of its research, advisory and capacity building functions, additional funding at the level of **CHF 2.6 million** would be required (see graph below).



WHAT OUR MEMBER STATES SAY ABOUT US

"The South Centre has been a key institution, amplifying the voice of developing countries in global governance. Its ability to transform shared challenges into opportunities for collective action remains indispensable."

— Ambassador Arindam Bagchi, India

"For smaller missions operating with limited resources, the South Centre's expertise has been indispensable, allowing us to punch above our weight in international forums."

— Ambassador R.G.S Wijesekara, Sri Lanka to WTO

"The Centre's analyses on special and differential treatment and industrial policy have directly informed our national positions and negotiating strategies."

— Permanent Mission of Brazil

"South Africa values independent thinking and principled advocacy, values the South Centre has upheld. The Centre's role in shaping fairer trade rules, offering strategic advice, and promoting South-led policy thinking remains vital as South Africa holds the G20 Presidency."

— Permanent Mission of South Africa

"The Centre must remain a catalytic force enabling developing countries to speak with a unified voice. Only through cohesion can we become a key player defending the interests of our peoples."

— Ambassador Rodolfo Benítez Verson, Cuba

WHAT OUR PARTNERS AND DONORS SAY ABOUT US

"The South Centre's unique position as an intergovernmental think tank, of and for the countries of the Global South, is an enormously valuable one. The Centre plays a critical role in analysing and supporting effective responses to the fundamental injustice of international tax rules that systematically deny countries of the South a fair share of taxing rights."

— Alex Cobham, Chief Executive, Tax Justice Network

"The Treaty Secretariat has greatly valued the South Centre's principled leadership and its commitment to strengthening developing countries' capacities in global negotiations. Its policy insights and support for South-South cooperation have enriched our efforts to ensure that the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources are guided by inclusiveness, fairness, and solidarity."

— Dr. Kent Nnadozie, Secretary, International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), FAO

"The South Centre has partnered with the Fleming Fund, a UK aid programme, since 2018. Recent successes include facilitating the adoption of an AMR resolution at the World Health Assembly and organizing a regional Africa AMR conference in Zambia. These actions, supported by the UK government, have strengthened global AMR governance."

— Dame Sally Davies, United Kingdom Special Envoy for AMR

"The South Centre has made a profound contribution in shaping equitable global health and promoting the interests of the Global South in international intellectual property policy discourse. The Centre's unwavering commitment to evidence-based policy development and its support for independent research have been instrumental in shaping contributions to the discourse on affordable access to essential medicines, vaccine equity, and pandemic preparedness."

— Muhammad Zaheer Abbas, Lecturer, Queensland University of Technology, Australia

"The South Centre has been a vital voice for the Global South, championing collective interests, promoting South-South solidarity, and shaping global policy through policy research and strategic expertise. In today's shifting geopolitical landscape, where global health and development progress face mounting threats, the South Centre's role is more critical than ever."

— Haileyesus Getahun, CEO and Founder, Global Centre for Health Diplomacy and Inclusion (CeHDI)

"The South Centre plays a unique role as the think tank supporting developing countries to promote their common interests in the international arena. For TNI, it has provided an invaluable space for dialogues among civil society organisations, associated intellectuals and Southern governments on international questions of direct relevance to socio-economic transformation in the South."

— Fiona Dove, Executive Director, Transnational Institute (TNI)

Investing in the South Centre, through the assessed Member voluntary contribution, project-specific funding or partnerships, will allow it to continue performing its mission as a source of expertise in support of the countries of the South.

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